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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/697,157

10/31/2003

Kazuki Emori

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RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
LION BUILDING
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

LEUNG, JENNIFER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,157

Applicant(s)

EMORI, KAZUKI

Examiner

Jennifer Leung

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 May 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/19/2004; 5/3/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: belly panel 100 as mentioned in the specification on pages 34-38. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the use of legal phraseology such as "means" in line 1 of the abstract. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 1, para 1: A sentence claiming priority to foreign application (Japan 2002-334122, November 18, 2002) is missing.

Page 2, line 1: "resole" should be -- resolve --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamoto (JP 10174738 A).**

Re claim 1. Sakamoto discloses a gaming machine comprising: symbol row display means configured to display a plurality of symbols for a player to arrange the symbols (Fig. 4); operation input means comprising a lever or a button to be operated by the player to play a game (Fig. 4); internal lottery means configured to carry out an internal lottery of the game with a random number (Fig. 4: it is well known in the art that a random number generator is used to determine the combination of the symbols); illumination means configured to illuminate a tray formed on a cabinet of the gaming machine (English translation of abstract); and a transparent member detachably disposed between the illumination means and the tray (26, Fig. 1).

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Re claim 3. Sakamoto further discloses wherein the transparent member is formed of a plastic member (para 2 of English translation of abstract: plastics are made of resins).

Re claim 4. Sakamoto further discloses wherein the transparent member is sandwiched and fixed (26, Fig. 1) between the cabinet (24, Fig. 1) and a belly panel fitted into the cabinet (22, Fig. 1).

Re claim 5. Sakamoto further discloses wherein the transparent member is colored (para 2 of English translation of abstract: resins can be of various colors).

Re claim 6. Sakamoto further discloses wherein the transparent member is decorated with a decoration including at least one of a character, a sign, and a design (para 2 of English translation of abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto.**

Re claim 1: Sakamoto discloses the claimed invention except for a detachable transparent member. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a detachable member for ease of maintenance, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179. See MPEP 2144.04 (V)(C)

Re claims 3-6: See 35 USC Sec.102 rejections of claims 3-6 above.

8. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto in view of Corsetti (WO 98/05575). The teachings of Sakamoto have been discussed in claim 1 above.

However, Sakamoto fails to disclose wherein the transparent member comprises: a bottom member configured to transmit light from the illumination means; a rear member fixed to the bottom member substantially at right angles therewith; and a side member fixed between the rear member and the bottom member.

Corsetti teaches the transparent member comprises (Fig. 1; page 10, lines 3-7): a bottom member configured to transmit light from the illumination means (30, Fig. 1: the transparent plastic allows light to pass through); a rear member fixed to the bottom member substantially at right angles therewith (20, Fig. 1); and a side member fixed between the rear member and the bottom member (38, Fig. 1).

Therefore, in view of Corsetti, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the aforementioned limitations in

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order to allow the transparent member to be inserted/removed easily into/from the cabinet of the gaming machine (page 3, lines 1-5).

Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Koga discloses a gaming machine with sterilizing light beam. Okada discloses a slot machine. Tastad discloses an illumination of a coin tray of a gaming machine. Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer Leung whose telephone number is 571-270-1342. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon -Thur, every other Fri.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jennifer Leung
May 25, 2007



Robert E. Pezzuto
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714